

Sub A1

CLAIMS

1 1. An audio system comprising,
2 a sound reproduction device for producing audible sound
3 from audio signals including a radio tuner and a powered
4 speaker;

5 a connector for connecting said sound reproduction device
6 with a computer, said computer for providing audio signals
7 from a plurality of sources, said sources including a computer
8 CD player, digitally encoded computer files stored on said
9 computer, and a computer network connected to said computer;

10 said sound reproduction device further comprising control
11 buttons for controlling at least one of said computer CD
12 player, said digitally encoded computer files and said
13 computer network.

1 2. An audio system in accordance with claim 1, and further
2 comprising,

3 an interface device for connecting said computer and said
4 connector, said interface device comprising a digital to
5 analog converter.

1 3. An audio system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said
2 sound reproduction device is constructed and arranged to
3 produce audible sound from only analog audio signals.

Subj A1

1 4. An audio system in accordance with claim 3 wherein said
2 sound reproduction device is constructed and arranged to
3 receive digitally encoded control signals from said computer.

1 5. An audio system in accordance with claim 1 and further
2 comprising,

3 a remote control device for transmitting commands to said
4 sound reproduction device.

1 6. An audio system in accordance with claim 5 wherein said
2 sound reproduction system is constructed and arranged to
3 transmit said commands to said computer.

1 7. An audio system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said
2 radio tuner and said powered speaker are contained in a single
3 enclosure.

1 8. An audio system comprising,

2 a sound reproduction device for producing audible sound
3 from audio signals including an enclosure enclosing a radio
4 tuner and a powered speaker;

5 a connector for connecting said sound reproduction device
6 with a computer;

7 said computer for providing audio signals from a computer
8 CD player, from digitally encoded computer files, and from a
9 computer network; and

10 a remote control device for transmitting commands to said
11 sound reproduction device to control at least one of said
12 computer CD player, said digitally encoded computer files and
13 said computer network.

1 9. An audio system in accordance with claim 8 and further
2 comprising,

3 an interface device for connecting said computer and said
4 connector;

5 said interface device comprising a digital to analog
6 converter.

1 10. An audio system in accordance with claim 8 wherein said
2 sound reproduction device is constructed and arranged to
3 produce audible sound from exclusively analog encoded audio
4 signals and is not designed and constructed to produce audible
5 sound from digitally encoded audio signals.

1 11. An audio system in accordance with claim 8 and further
2 comprising a remote control device for transmitting commands
3 to said audio system.

1 12. An audio system in accordance with claim 11 wherein said
2 sound reproduction system is constructed and arranged to
3 transmit said commands to said computer.

1 13. An audio system comprising,

2 a sound reproduction device for reproducing, from audio
3 signals audible sound;

4 a computer coupled to said sound reproduction device for
5 receiving said audio signals from a computer network;

6 said audio signals being transmitted from an
7 alternatively selectable plurality of network addresses;

8 a remote control device for communicating commands to
9 said sound reproduction device and having a plurality of
10 indicator buttons;

11 wherein an indicating of a one of said indicator buttons
12 causes said computer to select a preassigned one of said
13 network addresses.

1 14. An audio system in accordance with claim 13 wherein said
2 computer is constructed and arranged for storing and
3 retrieving digitally encoded audio signals;

4 said digitally encoded audio signals being stored in said
5 computer in computer files characterized by a file name;

6 wherein said selector is for selecting said audio signals
7 from one of said computer network or said computer files;

8 wherein a selecting of said computer network causes said
9 indicating to cause said computer to select said preassigned
10 one of said network addresses; and

11 wherein a selecting of said computer files causes said
12 indicating to select a preassigned assemblage of said computer
13 files.

1 15. An audio system in accordance with claim 13 and further
2 comprising,

3 a radio tuner coupled to said sound reproduction device
4 for receiving broadcast audio signals,

5 said audio signals being transmitted on carrier waves of
6 a plurality of selectable frequencies;

7 a selector for selecting audio signals from one of said
8 computer network and said radio tuner for sound reproduction
9 by said sound reproduction device;

10 wherein a selecting of said computer network causes said
11 indicating to cause said computer to select said preassigned
12 one of said network addresses; and

13 wherein a selecting of said radio tuner causes said
14 indicating to cause said radio tuner to select a preassigned
15 one of said plurality of selectable frequencies.

1 16. An audio system in accordance with claim 15 wherein said
2 computer is constructed and arranged for storing and
3 retrieving digitally encoded audio signals,

4 said digitally encoded audio signals being stored in said
5 computer in computer files characterized by a file name;

6 wherein said selector is for selecting said audio signals
7 from one of said computer network, said radio tuner, and said
8 computer files;

9 wherein a selecting of said computer network causes said
10 indicating to cause said computer to select said preassigned
11 one of said network addresses;

12 wherein a selecting of said radio tuner causes said
13 indicating to cause said radio tuner to select a preassigned
14 one of said plurality of selectable frequencies; and
15 wherein a selecting of said computer files causes said
16 indicating to select a preassigned assemblage of said computer
17 files.

1 17. An audio system in accordance with claim 13 and further
2 comprising,

3 a plurality of mechanical buttons on said sound
4 reproduction device;

5 said mechanical buttons corresponding to said indicator
6 buttons on said remote control device; and

7 wherein a pressing of a mechanical button corresponding
8 to said indicator button causes said device to select said
9 one of said network addresses.

1 18. In an audio system comprising a computer system and a
2 sound reproduction system for reproducing audible sound from
3 audio signals, the audio signals coming from a plurality of
4 selectable sources, a method for switching said sound
5 reproduction system from an unpowered state to a powered state
6 comprising,

7 transmitting a control signal from said sound
8 reproduction system to said computer system; and

9 if said computer system responds to said control signal,
10 determining by said sound reproduction device that said
11 computer system is in a responsive state; and

12 if said computer system does not respond to said control
13 signal, determining by said sound reproduction device that
14 said computer system in an unresponsive state.

1 19. A method for switching a sound reproduction system from
2 an unpowered state to a powered state in accordance with claim
3 18 and further comprising,

4 responsive to a determination that said computer system
5 is unresponsive, selecting an audio signal source that is
6 accessible without said computer system.

1 20. In a radio receiver having a number n of preset
2 indicators, a method for assigning broadcast frequencies to
3 individual preset indicators, comprising.

4 determining the location of the radio receiver; and
5 scanning the frequency spectrum to determine the strength
6 of signals received and the corresponding frequency of said
7 received signals.

1 21. A method for assigning broadcast frequencies to preset
2 indicators in accordance with claim 20 and further comprising
3 assigning the n strongest signals to the n presets,
4 respectively.

1 22. A method for assigning broadcast frequencies to
2 individual preset indicators in accordance with claim 20 and
3 further comprising determining the broadcast format of the
4 radio stations.

sub 21

1 23. A method for assigning broadcast frequencies to
2 individual preset indicators in accordance with claim 22 and
3 further comprising assigning the frequencies corresponding to
4 the $\frac{n}{m}$ strongest signals to the n presets for each of the
5 broadcast formats, where m is the number of formats.

1 24. A method for assigning broadcast frequencies to
2 individual preset indicators, in accordance with claim 22 and
3 further comprising,

4 determining the p user preferences for broadcast format,
5 where p is a number <n representing the number of user
6 preferences for broadcast formats; and

7 assigning the frequencies corresponding to the $\frac{n}{p}$
8 strongest signals in each of the preferred broadcast formats
9 to the n presets.

1 25. In a sound system comprising a sound reproduction device
2 coupled to a computer system and a remote control device for
3 transmitting encoded control commands to said sound
4 reproduction device, a method for decoding said encoded
5 control commands comprising,

6 receiving, by said sound reproduction device one of said
7 encoded control commands;

8 decoding by said sound reproduction device the encoded
9 control command;

10 executing by said sound reproduction device the encoded
11 control command;

12 in the event that said one received control command is
13 not decodable or is not executable by said sound reproduction
14 device, transmitting said encoded control command to said
15 computer system.

1 26. A sound system, comprising,

2 a sound reproduction device for reproducing sound from,
3 alternatively, broadcast radio audio signals and digitally
4 encoded audio signals transmitted to said sound reproduction
5 device from a computer,

6 said digitally encoded audio signals from one of a
7 plurality of sources that are selectable and indicatable on a
8 computer display device,

9 said sound reproduction device comprising a control
10 button for changing the tuning frequency to which said sound
11 reproduction device is tuned,

12 wherein said control button is constructed and arranged
13 to select said one source.

1 27. An audio system, comprising,

2 a sound reproduction device for reproducing, from
3 digitally encoded audio signals stored in alternatively
4 selectable plurality of digitally encoded files stored on a
5 digital storage device;

6 a plurality of individually indicatable preset
7 indicators;

suba)

8 wherein an indicating of a one of said preset indicators
9 causes said device to select for reproducing a preassigned one
10 of said digitally encoded files.

1 28. An audio system in accordance with claim 27, wherein said
2 indicating causes said device to select a preassigned
3 plurality of said digitally encoded files,

4 said audio system further comprising an order indicating
5 system for indicating an order in which said preassigned
6 plurality of computer files are reproduced,

7 said orders including a first order in which said
8 preassigned plurality of computer files are reproduced in a
9 predefined sequence and a second order in which said
10 preassigned plurality of computer files are reproduced in a
11 random sequence.

1 29. An audio system comprising,

2 a sound reproduction device for reproducing audible sound
3 from audio signals from a plurality of sources,

4 said sources including a radio tuner and at least one of
5 a CD containing a plurality of individually indicatable
6 tracks, a plurality of individually indicatable network
7 addresses, and a plurality of individually indicatable
8 digitally encoded files stored on a digital storage device;

9 a source selector, for selecting from said plurality of
10 sources a source of audio signals to be reproduced by said
11 sound reproduction device;

12 a control signal input device;

Sub A1

13 wherein in the event that said selected source is said
14 radio tuner, an activation of said control signal input device
15 changes the tuning frequency of said radio tuner;

16 in the event that said selected source is said CD, an
17 activation of said control signal input device changes the
18 indicated CD track; and

19 in the event that said selected source is said selectable
20 network addresses, an activation of said control signal device
21 changes the indicated network address.

1 30. A method of operating an audio system adapted to
2 reproduce sound from a plurality of digitally encoded files,
3 said files containing identifying characteristics, comprising,

4 assigning a value one of said identifying characteristics
5 to a preset indicator;

6 on the indicating of said preset indicator, searching
7 said plurality of files for said value of said one identifying
8 characteristic; and

9 selecting for reproduction the digitally encoded files
10 having said value.

1 31. A method of operating an audio system in accordance with
2 claim 30 wherein said identifying characteristics are recorded
3 in a data base and wherein said searching comprises searching
4 said data base for said one identifying characteristic.

1 32. A method for selecting from a plurality of records a
2 single record, said records having fields, comprising,

sub A1

3 specifying a value of one of said fields;
4 determining, by a computer, which of said records have
5 said value for said one characteristic;
6 selecting a one of said records by entering a command on
7 an input device;
8 wherein said input device is a control panel of an
9 attached radio.

1 33. A method for selecting from a plurality of records a
2 single record in accordance with claim 32 and further
3 comprising,
4 presenting on a display a list,
5 said list having an entry corresponding to each of said
6 determined records.

1 34. A method for selecting records in accordance with claim
2 32 wherein said input device is a remote control device
3 associated with an attached radio.

1 35. A method for selecting audio records in accordance with
2 claim 32 wherein said input device comprises a tuning button
3 for tuning said attached radio and wherein said command is
4 entered by pressing said tuning button.

1 36. A method for selecting from a plurality of records a
2 single record, said records having fields, comprising,
3 presenting said records on a display in the form of a
4 list;

Subj 5 said list having an entry corresponding to each of said
6 records;

7 sorting said records so that entries having a common
8 value for one of said fields are successive entries in said
9 list;

10 highlighting on said display a one of said presented
11 records by entering a command on an input device;

12 wherein said input device is a control panel of an
13 attached radio.

1 37. A method for selecting records in accordance with claim
2 36 wherein said input device is a remote control device
3 associated with an attached radio.

1 38. A method for selecting audio records in accordance with
2 claim 36, wherein said input device comprises a tuning button
3 for tuning said attached radio and wherein said command is
4 entered by pressing said tuning button.

1 39. A method for selecting from a plurality of records a
2 single record, said records having fields, comprising,
3 ordering said records so that entries in said list are
4 ordered according to their respective values of one of the
5 fields;

6 selecting one of said presented records by entering a
7 first command on an input device;

8 wherein said input device is a control panel of an
9 attached radio; and

Docket No.: 02103-2001

Final 10
11 selecting an adjacent record by entering a second command
on said input device.

1 40. A method for selecting from a plurality of records a
2 single record in accordance with claim 39 and further
3 comprising,

4 presenting said records on a display in the form of a
5 list,

6 said list having an entry corresponding to each of said
7 records.

1 41. A method for selecting records in accordance with claim
2 39 wherein said input device is a remote control device
3 associated with an attached radio.

1 42. A method for selecting audio records in accordance with
2 claim 39 wherein said input device comprises a tuning button
3 for tuning said attached radio and wherein said command is
4 entered by pressing said tuning button.

1 43. A method of giving multiple sets of values to a single
2 set of presets being used with a single source with a system
3 including a computer having a screen display with graphics and
4 a pointing device, a radio having presets and a remote
5 associated with the radio having corresponding presets,
6 comprising,

7 using the pointing device to click on a graphic on the
8 screen display to bring up a new set of values for the presets

9 whereby any one of the set of values is selectable by using
10 the pointing device to click on a preset graphic on the screen
11 display, pressing the selected preset on the remote, or
12 pressing the preset on the radio.

subj: a1

add: a1

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